

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage unit, comprising:

a first tracking device attached to an item associated with the storage unit, wherein the tracking device is configured to monitor[[s]] a presence and obtains a temperature reading of the item; and

a processing device electrically linked to the first tracking device that communicates with the tracking device, wherein the first tracking device automatically transmits the presence and temperature reading at discrete time intervals.

2. (Original) The storage unit of claim 1, further comprising a data storage device that is electrically linked to the processing device.

3. (Previously Presented) The storage unit of claim 2, wherein the data storage device stores data obtained from the first tracking device.

4. (Previously Presented) The storage unit of claim 3, wherein the processing device writes the data to the first tracking device.

5. (Original) The storage unit of claim 1, further comprising a data storage device that is electrically linked to the first tracking device.

6. (Previously Presented) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the processing device reads data from the first tracking device and generates read data.

7. (Original) The storage unit of claim 6, further comprising a data storage device, wherein the read data is stored in the data storage device.

8. (Original) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the first tracking device is a tracking device socket that is electrically compatible with a second tracking device that is associated with the item.

9. (Original) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the storage unit is a refrigerator.

10. (Original) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the storage unit is an incubator.

11. (Original) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the storage unit is a blood storage unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the tracking device is a computer chip enclosed in a stainless steel housing.

13. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

an access control system, wherein the access control system is connected to the processing device.

14. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 13, wherein the access control system is a badge identification system and grants access to the storage unit to authorized users.

15. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 13, wherein the access control system is a bioinformatics system.

16. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 15, wherein the bioinformatics system is a retinal scanning system.

17. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 13, wherein the access control system maintains a log within the access control system of individuals who access the storage unit.

18. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 13, wherein the access control system communicates information to the processing device about an individual who has accessed the storage unit.

19. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 18, wherein the information communicated to the processing device about the individual is at least one of identification information and time of access information.

20. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 1, wherein the tracking device generates temperature information from taking the temperature of the item.

21. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 20, wherein the tracking device

stores the temperature information.

22. (Original) The storage unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of tracking devices associated with a plurality of items in the storage unit.

23. (Previously Presented) The storage unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

an external processing device connected to the processing device, wherein the information can be accessed from the external processing device by a user of the external processing device.

24. (Previously Presented) The storage unit according to claim 23, wherein the external processing device is a part of an external network.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a log of temperature information for an item in a storage unit, comprising:

~~storing the item;~~

attaching a tracking device to the item;

tracking the presence of the item with the tracking device;

taking the temperature of the item with the tracking device; and

automatically transmitting the presence and the temperature to a processing device; and

maintaining information generated from tracking the presence of the item and taking the temperature of the item.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
determining whether an individual is an authorized user; and
granting access to the storage unit if the individual is an authorized user.
27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:
recording information about the authorized user.
28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:
recording the time the authorized user was permitted access to the storage unit.
29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:
recording the time the authorized user exited the storage unit.
30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the taking of
the temperature of the item is performed and recorded at discrete intervals of time.
31. (Currently Amended) A storage unit, comprising:

~~means for storing an item;~~

~~means for attaching a tracking device to the item;~~

means for taking the temperature of the item;

means for tracking the presence of an item; ~~and~~

means for automatically transmitting the temperature and pressure of the item;

and

means for maintaining information generated from tracking the presence of the item and taking the temperature of the item.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The storage unit of claim 31, wherein the temperature taking means and the tracking means is a tracking device.

34. (Previously Presented) The storage unit of claim 31, wherein the maintaining means is a processing device.

35. (Previously Presented) The storage unit of claim 34, wherein the processing device is a microcontroller.

36. (Previously Presented) The storage unit according to claim 31, further comprising:

means for accessing tracking information generated by the tracking means.

37. (Previously Presented) The storage unit according to claim 36, wherein the accessing means is an access control system.

38. (Currently Amended) A storage unit, comprising:

a tracking device linked to an item that is associated and stored within the storage unit, wherein the tracking device monitors a location of the item at discrete time intervals; and

a processor linked to the tracking device.

39. (Previously Presented) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the tracking device monitors the temperature of the item when the item is outside the storage unit.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising monitoring the temperature of the item when the item is outside the storage unit.

41. (Previously Presented) The storage unit of claim 31, further comprising a means for monitoring the temperature of the item when the item is outside the storage unit.

42. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, further comprising the item being placed in a container that is automatically, electrically linked to the processing device.

43. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the tracking device identifies a status and a location of the item.

44. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the tracking device has a real-time clock.

45. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the tracking device obtains the temperature reading at discrete time intervals and maintains the temperature reading in a thermal history log.

46. (New) The storage unit of claim 45, further comprising the tracking device maintains the thermal history log when the item is not electrically linked to the processing device.

47. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the tracking device may be placed in a container, on a shelf, or the item.

48. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the processing device monitors and maintains a log of identifying information of the item at discrete time intervals.

49. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, further comprising the processing device monitors and maintains a log of the item, a time associated with a predetermined event and the temperature of the item at discrete time intervals.

50. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the tracking device monitors and maintains a log of the presence or an absence of the item inside the storage unit, a time associated with the presence or the absence of the item, the temperature of the item associated with the presence or the absence of the item and a temperature differential between the presence and the absence of the item.

51. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, further comprising the tracking device identifies an authorized user.

52. (New) The storage unit of claim 1, further comprising the tracking device monitors an opening or a closing of the storage unit, and obtains a date and a time reading upon the opening or the closing of the storage unit.

53. (New) The storage unit of claim 13, wherein the access control system monitors the item that is accessed by authorized users.